

REMARKS

Claims 34-39, 41, 45, 46, 48-52, 54, 56-65 and 67-73 are in this application and are presented for consideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 34, 39, 46, 49, 52, 54, 56 and 65.

Claims 34-39, 41, 45, 46, 48-52, 54, 56-65 and 67-73 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tajima et al. (JP 03003030 A).

The present invention relates to a printer/scanner unit. Two transporting paths are provided in the printer/scanner unit. One transporting path is for printing purposes or image forming purposes or the like while the other transporting path is for scanning a document. The scanner is removably mounted to the base unit so that the scanner defines a portion of one of the transporting paths. The scanner can advantageously be detached so the scanner can be used to scan documents that cannot fit through the transporting path. The scanner has a motor and a roller. The motor actuates the roller to cause movement of the roller. This in turn allows the scanner to move automatically and autonomously when the scanner is detached from the base unit. This advantageously allows the scanner to move automatically along a document so that a user does not have to move the scanner by hand. This advantageously allows the user to be free to work on another activity while the object is scanned. Further, when the scanner is attached to the base unit, the motor actuates the roller so that the rollers moves a sheet along the sheet transporting path. This advantageously allows proper feeding of the sheets and prevents improper orientation of the papers being scanned so that the image of the scanned document is not skewed. The prior art as a whole fails to teach or suggest such features or

advantages.

Tajima et al. discloses a printer device with a scanner. A placing recessed part 3c for placing a scanner part 2 is formed on a side of the printer device 3. A printing paper insertion port 3a is formed on the upper end face side and a discharge port 3d is formed on the lower end face side. The side part of the printer device 3 is detachably fitted to a disk side 99a through a magnet. The scanner part 2 detachably fitted on the recessed part 3 is connected independently of the printer device 3 through a wire harness 101. An image sensor 2a is provided in the housing B to scan the surface of an original paper X. Paper is fed to the scanner part 2 via transporting means Z1, Z2 when the scanner part 2 is attached to the printer device 3. The scanner includes a rotary encoder 54. Rollers 20 and 21 press the paper X down. The rollers 20 and 21 are rotated by a second transportation means Z2 such that the paper X is transported via vibration created by vibration board 28.

Tajima et al. fails to teach or suggest the combination of a scanner that includes a roller driven by a motor. Tajima et al. teaches a different approach than the present invention. Tajima et al. fails to provide a motor to drive a roller within the scanner part 2 so that a user has to physically push the scanner over the document being scanned. At most, Tajima et al. suggests that the scanner part 2 includes a rotary encoder 54. Applicant fails to see how a rotary encoder is the equivalent of the motor in the present invention. A rotary encoder is a sensor that converts rotary motion into a series of electronic pulses. This is clearly not the functional equivalent of the motor in the scanner of the preset invention.

In the present invention, the roller driven by the motor in the scanner advantageously

allows sheets of paper to be transported through the scanner with the correct orientation when the scanner is mounted to the base unit while also allowing the scanner to move along an object when the scanner is detached from the base unit. The scanner part 2 of Tajima et al. fails to automatically move along a document when the scanner part 2 is detached from the printer device 3.

In contrast to the present invention, paper in Tajima et al. is not moved via rollers when the scanner part is mounted to the printer device 3. Tajima et al. clearly discloses that guide rollers 20, 21 act as idle rollers to merely press the paper, however the rollers are not moved via a motor as claimed. The rollers of Tajima et al. are vibrated by a vibration board 28 to move the paper along the path. The present invention provides a different approach. In the present invention, the roller driven by the motor is contained within the detachable scanner. With this construction the rollers moves sheets of paper through the scanner when the scanner is attached to the printer while allowing the scanner to move along a document when the scanner is detached from the base unit. In Tajima et al., the scanner fails to act autonomously since the scanner does not have a roller driven by a motor built into the scanner part 2. Tajima et al. merely discloses the rollers 20, 21 are acted on via vibration created by vibration board 28. In contrast, the motor within the scanner of the present invention actuates the roller to autonomously move the scanner along a document so that the document can be scanned. As such, the prior art teaches a different approach and does not suggest the features of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claims 34, 39, 46, 49, 52, 54, 56 and 65 and all claims that respectively depend thereon.

Favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted
For Applicant,



By: _____
John James McGlew
Reg. No. 31,903
McGLEW and TUTTLE, P.C.

JJM:BMD

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Attached: Petition for Two Month Extension of Time

DATED: June 25, 2007
BOX 9227 SCARBOROUGH STATION
SCARBOROUGH, NEW YORK 10510-9227
(914) 941-5600

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